

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for protecting growing plant from insects and from insect transmitting plant viruses, which comprises:

applying to at least one surface of the growing plant, a composition comprising at least one pearl luster pigment comprising at least coated mica;

applying to at least said surface of the growing plant a composition comprising at least one agriculturally acceptable diluent, carrier or adjuvant, whereby said composition is suitable for agricultural applications,

wherein said compositions are directly applied and attached to said surface in the form of spray or dusting powder and whereby said composition pearl luster pigment and agriculturally acceptable diluent, carrier or adjuvant function together to be is effective in to repelling said insects and thus protecting the plant.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~19~~ 18, wherein said compositions is are an aqueous suspension or dispersion of said pearl luster pigment.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein said aqueous suspension or dispersion further comprises at least one surface active agent or adhesive.

22. (currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 18~~ for protecting a growing plant from insects and from insect-transmitted plant viruses, which comprises applying to at least one surface of the growing plant, a composition comprising at least one interference pigment whereby said composition is effective to repel said insects and thus protect the plant, wherein said interference pigment pearl luster pigment is selected from the group consisting of:

a mica coated with TiO_2 ;

a mica coated with Fe_2O_3 ;

a mica coated with both TiO_2 and Fe_2O_3 ;

a mica coated with TiO_2 and graphite, and

a mica coated with TiO_2 and SnO_2 , and

BiOCl crystals.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the pearl luster pigment is mica coated with TiO_2 further containing in the coating at least one of graphite and SnO_2 .

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein said insects are selected from the group consisting of aphids, leafhoppers, *Lariomyza Brioniae*, white flies and thrips.

25. (currently amended) A composition for protecting growing plants from insects and from insect-transmitted plant viruses, which comprises ~~at least one~~ mica pearl luster pigment together with at least one agriculturally acceptable diluent, carrier or adjuvant, in the form of a spray, dusting powder

or aqueous suspension or dispersion, the composition being effective for directly applying and attaching to at least one surface of a growing plant and being suitable for agricultural applications.

26. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 25, which is adapted for application to the surfaces of growing plants in the form of spray or dusting powder.

27. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 26, which is an aqueous suspension or dispersion of said pearl luster pigment.

28. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 27, wherein said aqueous suspension or dispersion further comprises at least one surface active agent or adhesive.

29. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 25, wherein pearl luster pigment is selected from the group consisting of:

a mica coated with TiO_2 ;

a mica coated with Fe_2O_3 ;

a mica coated with both TiO_2 and Fe_2O_3 ; and

a mica coated with TiO_2 and graphite, ~~and~~

~~BiOCl crystals~~

30. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 25 wherein said pearl luster pigment is mica coated with TiO_2 further containing in the coating at least one of graphite and SnO_2 .

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the composition comprising at least one pearl luster pigment is also applied to a background locus of the plant.

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)